

### REMARKS

By the present preliminary amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 without prejudice. Claims 1-49 are pending in the application. Support for this preliminary amendment can be found on page 30, lines 30-31, and continued onto page 31, lines 1-5 of the specification. No new matter is introduced by this amendment and its entry is respectfully requested.

### Fees

The Applicants believe no fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any required fee to our Deposit Account, **06-1448**.

### Conclusion

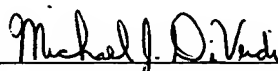
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Agent would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patent Group

Date: 11/20/06

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